Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

Annual Report

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025

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Corporate Information for Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)

MEMBERS

Mr Pete Haydon
(nominee of Australian College of Optometry)
(from 17 December 2024)

Mr Ian Bluntish
(nominee of Optometry Board of Australia)
(to 15 November 2024)

Ms Kristine Hammond
(nominee of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board)
(to 7 March 2025)

Ms Sophie Woodburn
(nominee of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board)
(from 7 March 2025)

Mr Wilson Sue
(nominee of New Zealand Association of Optometrists)

Associate Professor Michael Pianta
(nominee of Accredited Heads of Schools)

Ms Skye Cappuccio
(nominee of Optometry Australia)

DIRECTORS

Mr Jason Chong
(from 15 November 2024)

Dr Andrew Collins
(Deputy Chair)

Professor Jennifer Craig

Professor Alex Gentle
(Chair)

Mr Tony Lund
(to 15 November 2024)

Professor Lisa Nissen

Ms Shannon Peckham

Dr Linda Turner

Associate Professor Ann Webber

Mrs Katrina Yap

COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms Susan Kelly

STAFF

Ms Susan Kelly,
Chief Executive Officer, 0.6 FTE

Dr Melisa Rangitakatu,
Accreditation Manager, 0.4 FTE

Ms Lisa Vella,
Finance & Office Manager, 0.6 FTE

Miss Amber Smith,
Examination Manager, 0.4 FTE

Mrs Kelley Baldwin,
Policy and Projects Manager, Indigenous, 0.6 FTE

OCANZ as required engages consultants and temporary staff to support the accreditation and examination activities and other OCANZ functions.

REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

Level 17, 31 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

ABN 38 074 875 111

ACN 074 875 111

AUDITORS

RDL Accountants
60-64 Railway Road
Blackburn VIC 3130

Acknowledgement of Country and Māori whakatauki

Acknowledgment of Country

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand acknowledges the Traditional Custodians across the lands, waters and seas that we work, live and learn on. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and thank them for their continuing custodianship and ongoing contribution to society.

We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, their customs and beliefs.

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands where our office is located.

Whaowhia te kete mātauranga

Fill the basket of knowledge

Chair's Report

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of unceded country throughout Australia and New Zealand, on whose lands OCANZ does its business, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. In particular, I pay my respects to the Elders of the Wadawurrung People on whose lands I am fortunate to live, work and play.

OCANZ is dedicated to being a leading voice for quality optometry education and to continue to deliver excellence in our accreditation and assessment services. It follows that OCANZ plays a vital role in promoting and protecting the eye health of the public in Australia and New Zealand, by assuring the quality of optometric education and assessing overseas trained optometrists' competence to practise optometry. I'm delighted to say that our collaborative relationships with the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA) and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board, New Zealand (ODOB), for whom we provide these accreditation and assessment services, remain positive and ongoing.

This year, OCANZ has continued to uphold its mandate in a rapidly changing health and education environment, guided by our strategic plan. Through OCANZ's involvement in the HPAC Forum and my role as Chair of the HPAC Accreditation Managers Sub-Committee we continue to collaborate and contribute to best practice in accreditation while also seeking to improve efficiency. The OCANZ Board and Examination Committee has also overseen implementation of the recommendations of the review of the Competency in Optometry Examination to ensure the examination of optometrists from overseas remains contemporary, robust and fair. In addition, OCANZ has collaborated with education providers regarding assessment and support to embed the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health Curriculum Frameworks. Finally, OCANZ has participated in government and industry discussions regarding both workforce and the scope of practice of optometrists.

This year's achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of OCANZ's Members, Directors, and the many professionals from education, community, and optometry sectors who continue to support our work. I offer my sincere thanks to all who have contributed. On behalf of the Board, I also extend that appreciation to the OCANZ staff for their tireless efforts and support throughout the year.

During the year there were several changes in the personnel who play a role in governing OCANZ. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immense contribution of outgoing Director Tony Lund, at the same time, welcoming Jason Chong to the Board and Finance and Risk Committee. I would also like to thank retiring Members Ian Bluntish and Kristine Hammond for their contribution to the work of OCANZ, and welcome Sophie Woodburn as the new Member representative for the ODOB and Pete Haydon as the Australian College of Optometry Member representative. I offer my thanks to Associate Professor Andrew Anderson for his work on OCANZ's Accreditation Committee while welcoming Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane to the Committee. Finally, I warmly welcome Sara Carrison to the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce and offer heartfelt thanks to Dr Shelley Hopkins for her longstanding and impactful contribution to the Taskforce since its establishment in 2018.

As we look to the year ahead, OCANZ remains committed to being a leading advocate for quality optometry education and training and will continue to deliver excellence in accreditation and assessment services that support safe, high-quality optometric care across Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Alex Gentle,
Chair

CEO's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present to you OCANZ's 2024-2025 annual report, which provides an opportunity to reflect on our remarkable achievements over the last year:

- The review of the OCANZ Constitution was completed with all amendments resolved by Members at the OCANZ AGM in November.
- The new Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework Implementation Guide, Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework Implementation Guide and updated Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework were published.
- OCANZ held a Māori Optometry Curriculum Framework implementation workshop that was attended by representatives from all eight Schools of Optometry across Australia and New Zealand.
- OCANZ collaborated with Optometry Australia to externally review their Advanced Practice Recognition in Glaucoma Program
- OCANZ together with Optometry Australia supported First Nation students and optometrists to attend a workshop hosted by the Place for Mob, A Place for me in Optometry project team to discuss admission, retention and graduation of First Nation optometrists.
- Part 1 of the Evaluation of the implementation and uptake of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum project was completed.
- OCANZ awarded four education bursaries for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori community members, students and/or academics working with the optometry schools.
- OCANZ assessors completed the HPAC Forum online specialist training to support culturally safe accreditation for assessment teams.
- OCANZ developed videos to assist in explaining the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) process to candidates and an examination question writing workshop was held with representatives from all optometry programs in Australia and New Zealand
- OCANZ's Examination Committee published an article on Promoting best practice in assessment – a professional development initiative for optometry programs
- Increased involvement in Government and Ahpra consultations, meetings and working groups including the HPAC Forum Governance Working Group and HPAC Forum Artificial Intelligence Working Group.

It was a busy year for accreditation, with both reaccreditation and monitoring assessments. This year was one of our busiest years ever for Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) applications, written and clinical examinations. OCANZ progressed with implementation of COE Review recommendations as well as making improvements to examination information provided to candidates.

None of this year's achievements would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our outstanding staff - Lisa, Melisa, Kelley and Amber. Thank you also to Jennifer Caulfield for her great contribution to OCANZ as Examination Manager while Amber was on parental leave. Their collective expertise, resilience, and commitment have been instrumental in achieving OCANZ's goals. Thank you to Professor Alex Gentle and the OCANZ Board of Directors for all their work and support of myself and the OCANZ team. I would like to acknowledge and thank our examiners, assessors, and committee members. OCANZ relies on their generous contributions of time, knowledge, and experience.

Susan Kelly

Susan Kelly,
Chief Executive Officer

3.0

Accreditation Report

PURPOSE

OCANZ assesses, for the purposes of accreditation, programs designed to produce graduates suitable for registration as optometrists in Australia or New Zealand. The accreditation process assesses whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, can deliver graduates with the knowledge, skills and attributes to meet standards required for competent professional practice and with the necessary skills to maintain those competencies.

Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee makes recommendations to the OCANZ Board on matters concerning the accreditation of entry-level and ocular therapeutics training in Australia and New Zealand. The committee is responsible for implementing and administering accreditation in accordance with set procedures and standards.

The committee's roles include:

- to help develop and maintain OCANZ Accreditation Standards
- to oversee the accreditation assessments of programs and education providers by assessment teams which have been recommended by the committee and appointed by the OCANZ Board
- to review and approve the annual reports and evaluation reports from accredited programs.
- to regularly review and evaluate the accreditation process to ensure fairness, transparency, and conformity with good practice.

In 2024-2025, there were three meetings of the Accreditation Committee. The committee comprises six members. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on three occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCANZ Board. During the year Associate Professor Andrew Anderson completed his third term, and Jane Duffy assumed the duties of Deputy Chair. Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane was appointed to the Committee in December.

MEMBER	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Professor Lisa Nissen	07/09/2023	3	3
Associate Professor Andrew Anderson	04/12/2015	2	2
Professor Nicola Anstice	20/10/2023	3	3
Ms Jennifer Caulfield	22/08/2022	3	3
Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane	04/12/2024	1	1
Ms Jane Duffy OAM	10/08/2018	3	3
Dr Linda Turner	03/05/2017	3	3

Accreditation Standards

OCANZ accreditation standards are focussed on outcomes and are in harmony with and operate alongside the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Higher Education Standards Framework and the institutional review requirements of the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) of New Zealand. The standards include guidance notes which are profession-specific and have been developed in collaboration with optometry stakeholders.

The OCANZ Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs are available at https://ocanz.org/accreditation/standards/ and were approved by the OCANZ Board in December 2021 and the Optometry Board of Australia in February 2022. The Standards came into effect 1 January 2023.

The OCANZ Standards for Programs of Study in Ocular Therapeutics are available here and were approved by the OCANZ Board in January 2023 and the Optometry Board of Australia in June 2023. The Standards came into effect 1 January 2024.

The Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework took effect in January 2019. OCANZ has run annual workshops with education providers since 2018 to assist optometry education providers with the implementation of the Framework. The Framework was reviewed and updated in December 2024.

The Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework came into effect 1 January 2025. The Curriculum Frameworks support the OCANZ Board's commitment to ensuring that accredited programs of study produce culturally safe graduates through the development of cultural capabilities during their training.

Accredited Programs of Study

OCANZ publishes summaries of accreditation reports after the reports have been approved by the OCANZ Board. The summary reports are on the OCANZ website here.

New Programs assessed during 2024-2025

New programs apply to OCANZ in two stages. Stage 1 involves an initial assessment and must be approved before progressing to Stage 2. There were no applications for new programs submitted to OCANZ in 2024-2025.

Programs examined by Assessment Teams and/or Accreditation Committee during 2024-2025

University of New South Wales

PROGRAM
Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2032 with no conditions

The University of New South Wales submitted its reaccreditation report for the Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics in May 2024. The Assessment Team undertook a paper-based programmatic assessment throughout May 2024. The Accreditation Committee approved the report in July 2024.

The UNSW Graduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics program was re-accredited in 2024 for eight years with no conditions.

University of Western Australia

PROGRAM
Doctor of Optometry Program

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2032 with no conditions

The UWA Assessment team were approved by the Board in March 2024. UWA submitted a reaccreditation submission in June 2024. As assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission and a site visit was conducted in September 2024. The final report of the assessment team was approved by the OCANZ Board at their October 2024 meeting, by the OptomBA at their November 2024 meeting and by the ODOB at their March 2025 meeting.

The UWA optometry program was re-accredited in 2024 for eight years with no conditions.

University of Canberra

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 30 June 2031 with two conditions

The University of Canberra optometry program was accredited in 2023 for eight years with three conditions. The conditions related to the need to conduct external benchmarking of the program and external moderation of assessments, and to provide an appropriate staffing plan, including development of robust senior management within the optometry discipline. On review the University of Canberra's 2023 Annual Report Conditions 1, 2, and 3 were deemed not yet met. In August 2024 the OCANZ Board approved the appointment of an assessment team for the purposes of conducting an in-person monitoring site visit, which was conducted in October 2024. On assessment, Condition 1 was deemed met. Recruitment of a senior academic into the program was ongoing and the program had not yet engaged in external moderation of assessment. The assessment team revised the conditions on accreditation. The two revised conditions include provision of an appropriate staffing plan and confirmation of the planned Level D academic appointment; and, reporting on external moderation of assessments, including an ongoing plan and interim reporting against these conditions.

University of Auckland

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2025 with two conditions

Two conditions were imposed after the program's 2017 reaccreditation assessment. One related to monitoring various curriculum changes in train but not yet implemented, and the other concerned the impact of the closure of one on-campus clinic previously operated by the University. Both conditions have been met. UoA submitted a reaccreditation submission in June 2025. As assessment team appointed by the OCANZ Board reviewed the submission and a site visit is scheduled for August 2025.

Routine Monitoring of Programs

Monitoring of all accredited programs of study is conducted through receipt of annual reports. In addition to the programs mentioned above, the following programs were monitored:

Queensland University of Technology

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2030 with no conditions

The QUT optometry program was re-accredited in 2022 for eight years with no conditions.

Deakin University

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 July 2027 with no conditions

The Deakin optometry program was accredited in 2019 for eight years with no conditions.

University of New South Wales

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Vision Science and Master of Clinical Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2027 with one condition

The condition on accreditation on the UNSW's optometry program related to the need for the UNSW optometry curriculum to better address cultural safety. This condition has been met.

University of Melbourne

PROGRAM
Doctor of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2031

The University of Melbourne optometry program was accredited in 2023 for eight years with no conditions.

Flinders University

PROGRAM
Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science) and Master of Optometry

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 30 June 2030 with two conditions

The Flinders program is accredited until 30 June 2030 subject to two conditions set out in the 2022 OCANZ Flinders University Assessment Team Report. Condition 1 relates to their new curriculum including (a) notification of approval, (b) implementation strategy, and (c) reporting on implementation progress, including resourcing and staff development. Condition 2 required reporting on progress on the implementation of the cultural competence plan outlined in the reaccreditation submission. Conditions 1a, 1b and 2a were met in February 2023. Conditions 1c and 2b were deemed met in February 2024.

Australian College of Optometry

PROGRAM
Australian College of Optometry Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT)

ACCREDITATION STATUS
Accredited until 31 December 2029 with three conditions

The ACO's Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics accreditation conditions relate to conducting a review of external input into the program, strategy and plan for implementing cultural competence and review of the marking rubric for the oral examination. All conditions were deemed met in February 2023.

OCANZ Accreditation Project Work

HPAC Forum – ABSTARR Cultural Safety Training

ABSTARR Consulting and HPAC Forum co-developed a course for Cultural Safety in Health Program Accreditation. This program has been designed for accreditation assessors from all the 16 professions regulated by Ahpra. The program launched in April 2024. The six-module online course is open to learners for 6 months. On completion of the modules, learners attend a facilitated workshop which is delivered online or in-person per participant preference. To date three assessors have completed the program and eight more are enrolled.

Optometry Australia Advance Practice Glaucoma Recognition Program External Review

In April and May 2025, a Board approved team conducted an external review the Optometry Australia Advance Practice Glaucoma Recognition Program. The review team assessed that the program met its stated objectives and made recommendations for improvements. The OCANZ Board approved the External Review Report in May 2025.

Optometry Professionalism Curriculum Framework

In March 2025, the OCANZ Board approved funding to support further development of the Optometry Professionalism Curriculum Framework project led and facilitated by external stakeholders. The Accreditation Manager provides coordination support for the project workshop which is planned for October 2025.

Artificial Intelligence in Accreditation

In March 2025 the Accreditation Manager attended the Generative AI for Education Leaders Summit in Sydney. This was an opportunity for OCANZ to engage in thought leadership around the emerging trends, opportunities and challenges related to Generative AI and tertiary education, and to build relationships with national and international educational leaders in this space.

Collaborative Work with other Accreditation Authorities in the NRAS Scheme

In 2024-2025 OCANZ continued its active involvement in the work of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (Forum). During the year, the Forum has worked collaboratively including the delivery of assessor cultural training used by all accreditation authorities. The OCANZ CEO is the Forum's representative for the Ahpra / Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care project on Communicating for Safety and well as a member of the Forum's Governance and Artificial Intelligence working groups. The OCANZ Accreditation Manager is active on the Accreditation Managers' sub-committee of the Forum. During the year, the Accreditation Manager contributed to ongoing discussions about cognitive disability in practitioner education and interprofessional collaboration.

4.0

Assessment of Overseas Trained Optometrists Report

PURPOSE

OCANZ undertakes assessments of overseas trained optometrists wishing to obtain registration and ocular therapeutic endorsement in Australia and/or New Zealand. In addition, OCANZ undertakes assessments for optometry graduates who are seeking skilled migration to Australia.

Assessment for Skilled Migration to Australia

A person intending to migrate to Australia under the skilled migration program must obtain a skills assessment before applying to the Australian Department of Home Affairs. OCANZ is currently the assessing authority for the optometry profession. Skills assessments can be issued by OCANZ to people registered with the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA), and/or who have successfully completed the COE. In 2024-25 OCANZ provided 31 positive skills assessments.

Eligibility for the Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

During the year 81 people applied and were deemed eligible to sit the COE. One is currently being assessed by the examination committee. This compares to 50 eligible applications assessed in 2022-2023, and 40 eligible applications in 2022-2023.

Applications included 45 from optometrists holding a qualification in optometry that entitles automatic admission to the examination.

There were 40 applications which required individual assessment:

- 36 were subsequently deemed eligible to sit the COE
- Four applications were assessed as not eligible (the Country of Institution where these applicants studied were France, Jordan, Vietnam and China).
- One application is currently being assessed.

Eligible applications for the COE by Country of Institution, with qualifications that entitled automatic admission to the examination, were as follows:

COUNTRY OF INSTITUTION	NO. ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS
UK	10
South Africa	7
Hong Kong	2
India	13
USA	4
Philippines	1
Nigeria	7
Canada	1

Eligible applications for the COE by Country of Institution, with qualifications that required individual assessments for admission to the examination, were as follows:

COUNTRY OF INSTITUTION	NO. ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS INDIVIDUALLY ASSESSED
India	16
Pakistan	4
China	1
Ethiopia	1
Nepal	3
Ghana	3
Greece	1
Iran	2
Kenya	1
Palestine	1
Spain	1
Vietnam	1

Examination Eligibility Committee

The OCANZ Examination Eligibility Committee (EEC) determines which qualifications in optometry are suitable for automatic admission to the COE and undertakes an individual assessment for all applicants who do not hold such a qualification. The committee works predominantly by email to assess applications requiring individual review as well as meeting twice during the period.

The committee comprises three members appointed by the OCANZ Board. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on two occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCANZ Board. Associate Professor Peter Hendicott commenced his appointment as Chair in 2022. Both Alissa Maillet and Michael Hare have been appointed until March 2026.

MEMBER	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Associate Professor Peter Hendicott (Chair)	18/09/2022	2	2
Mr Michael Hare	16/03/2020	2	2
Ms Alissa Maillet	16/03/2019	2	2

Examination Committee

The Examination Committee oversees the conduct of, and makes recommendations on, matters concerning the COE and the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics examination for overseas trained optometrists. Members of the Examination Committee also serve on sub-committees, one focussed on the written components of the examination (written sc) and the other on the clinical components of the examination (clinical sc). Associate Professor Simon Backhouse was announced as Chair of the Examination Committee as of January 2025 after Professor Isabelle Jalbert completed her third term on the committee.

The committee comprises of six members and may include a work shadow appointed by the Board. The committee met twice during the reporting period and there were also 4 sub-committee meetings. The sub-committees additionally approve the results of each examination session by teleconference and/or email.

MEMBER	ATTENDING	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Professor Isabelle Jalbert *(Chair until 1 January 2025)*	Exam Committee; both sc	01/01/2017	5	5
Associate Professor Simon Backhouse *(Chair from 1 January 2025)*	Exam Committee; both sc	01/01/2017	5	5
Associate Professor Neville Chiavaroli	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2017	4	4
Dr Vinod Maseedupally	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2024	4	3
Dr Geraint Phillips	Exam Committee; clinical sc	01/01/2018	4	4
Associate Professor Katrina Schmid	Exam Committee; written sc	01/01/2017	4	4
Associate Professor Ann Webber	Exam Committee; clinical sc	01/01/2024	4	4

Types of Exams

Competency in Optometry Examination (COE)

OCANZ has been conducting the COE twice yearly since 1997. The COE assesses the ability of overseas trained optometrists to meet Optometry Australia's Entry-level Competency Standards for Optometry, excluding the specific skills to be endorsed for ocular therapeutics. The COE comprises of five parts, two written, two clinical and the cultural safety training program:

- Candidates who have previously been deemed eligible to sit the examination are required to pass two written papers before being able to proceed to the clinical section of the examination. The first paper, a multiple-choice question examination (MCQ) focuses on clinical science. The second paper, a short-answer question examination (SAQ) focuses on diagnosis and management. The written examinations in August 2024 and March 2025 were held as an online remotely proctored examination.
- The Cultural Safety Training Program is completed by candidates prior to sitting the Clinical examination. It is an online self-paced program. This program has a strong focus on applied safety in optometry practice which is both clinically- and culturally- framed. During 2024-2025, 20 candidates successfully completed the OCANZ Cultural Safety Training.
- The clinical examination comprises two parts – the skills testing examination and the patient examination. The candidate is required to pass the skills testing component before being allowed to proceed to the patient examination. The skills exam assesses each candidate's ability to perform 12 essential optometric techniques. All skills must be passed. The patient exam requires the candidate to conduct four patient examinations in a clinical setting. The candidate is required to achieve a pass in 3 out of 4 patient examinations. The clinical examination component of the COE is undertaken at the Australian College of Optometry in Melbourne in accordance with OCANZ requirements.

Candidates who pass the COE are eligible to apply for limited registration with the Optometry Board of Australia and provisional registration with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board in New Zealand and must then complete either the Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT) examination or an accredited program in ocular therapeutics within specified times to gain full registration.

Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT)

The purpose of this examination is to assess competence in ocular therapeutics. To do this, candidates must demonstrate safe and competent use of ophthalmic therapeutic agents for a primary practice setting in the Australian or New Zealand environment. Candidates are required to prepare three case reports for assessment and sit an oral examination. One candidate from the United States of America successfully undertook this examination during 2024-2025. Two candidates are currently undergoing the examination process, one from the United Kingdom and one from the United States of America.

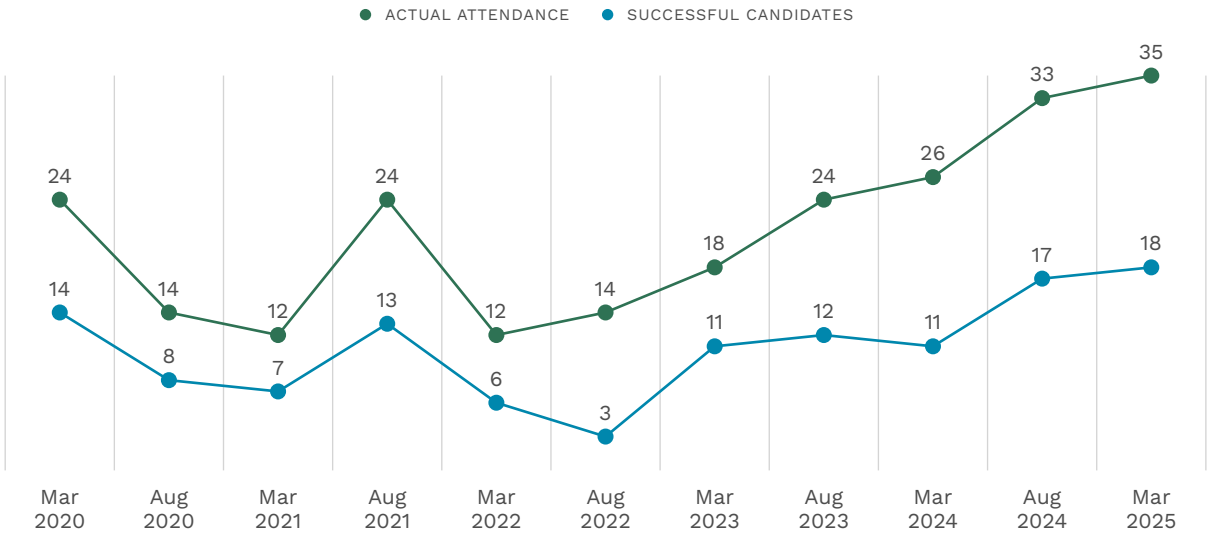
Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) Activity

The following two tables report on the Written Examination component of the COE. Historically the number of candidates sitting the COE written examination has varied from year to year, although the pass rate has remained fairly constant over time at around 50 per cent. Analysis of the written examination results is conducted using robust Rasch measurement theory, ratings of content experts and data from past exams. This ensures that the same level of performance is required to pass the exam over time.

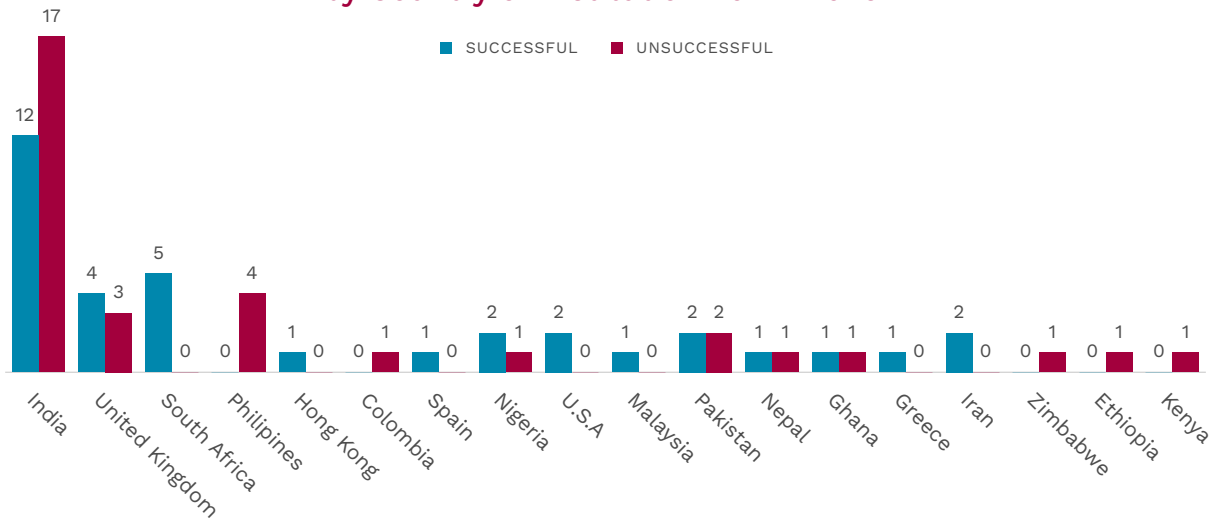
The following two tables report on the Written Examination component of the COE.

COE Written Examination

Actual Attendance vs Successful Candidates 2020–2025



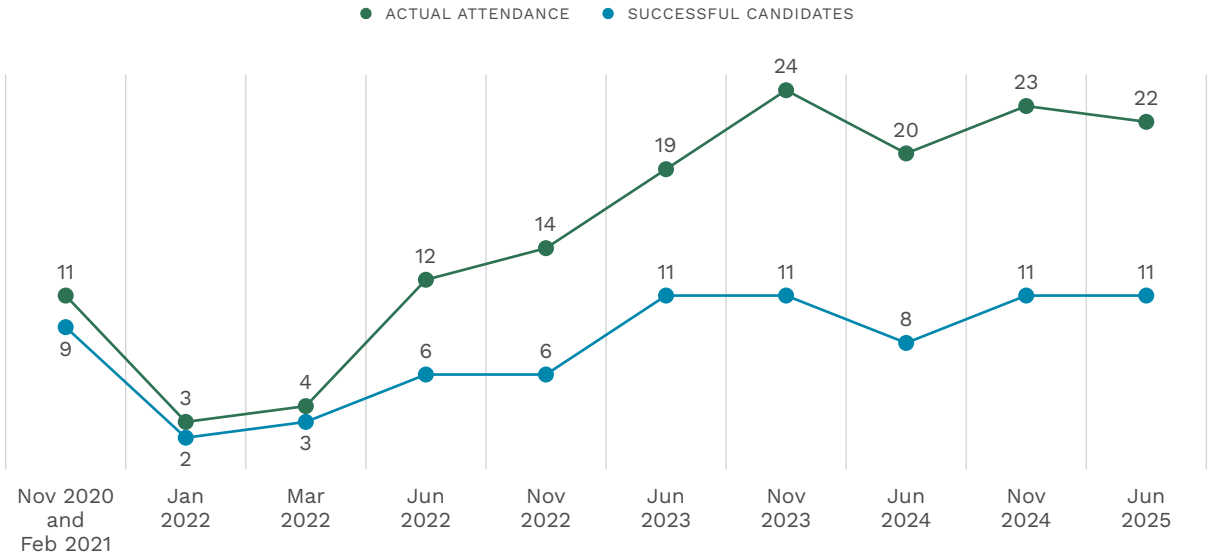
Successful Candidates vs Unsuccessful Candidates by Country of Institution 2024–2025



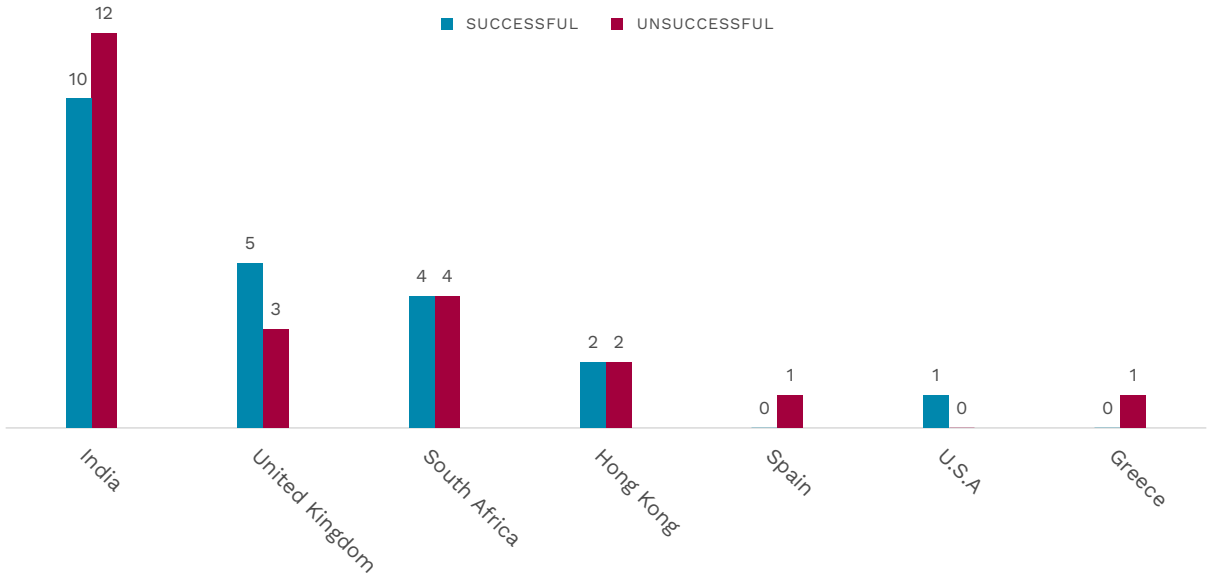
The following two tables report on the COE Clinical Examination component.
All candidates sat the Clinical examination at the Australian College of Optometry.

COE Clinical Examination

Actual Attendance vs Successful Candidates 2020–2025



Successful Candidates vs Unsuccessful Candidates by Country of Institution 2024–2025



Viewpoint Article

The Examination Committee wrote an article titled: *Promoting best practice in assessment – a professional development initiative for optometry programs*. This viewpoint article was published with Clinical and Experimental Optometry with Open Access on the 26th of May 2025 and discusses how the OCANZ plays a key role in protecting eye health, by accrediting optometry programs and assessing overseas-trained optometrists through the Competency in Optometry Examination. To support continuous quality improvement in education, OCANZ co-funded professional development workshops for all optometry programs in Australia and New Zealand, promoting best practices in assessment design. These initiatives demonstrate how accreditation bodies and higher education institutions can collaborate to enhance educational standards and build trust among stakeholders. The success of these workshops has paved the way for future sessions on topics like cultural safety, academic integrity, and the use and impact of generative AI in assessment.

COE Review

The OCANZ Board commissioned a review of the COE primarily to consider changes to the exam as a result of the new Optometry Australia Entry-Level Competency Standards for Optometry. A consultant and Reference Group have been appointed to undertake this review. Members of the reference group were Professor Alex Gentle (Chair), Professor Isabelle Jalbert, Associate Professor Anthea Cochrane and Emeritus Professor David Prideaux. Associate Professor Neville Chiavaroli has completed the review and made recommendations that have been accepted by the OCANZ Board.

Work on implementation of the recommendations has begun with mapping of all OCANZ multiple choice questions and short answer questions to the new competencies. OCANZ has held question writing workshops to create questions for competency areas with low numbers of questions. Representatives from every optometry education provider in Australia and New Zealand as well as the OCANZ Written Examination Committee attended the question writing workshop held in May 2025 at the OCANZ office.

Attendees of the May 2025 OCANZ question writing workshop

Other Work

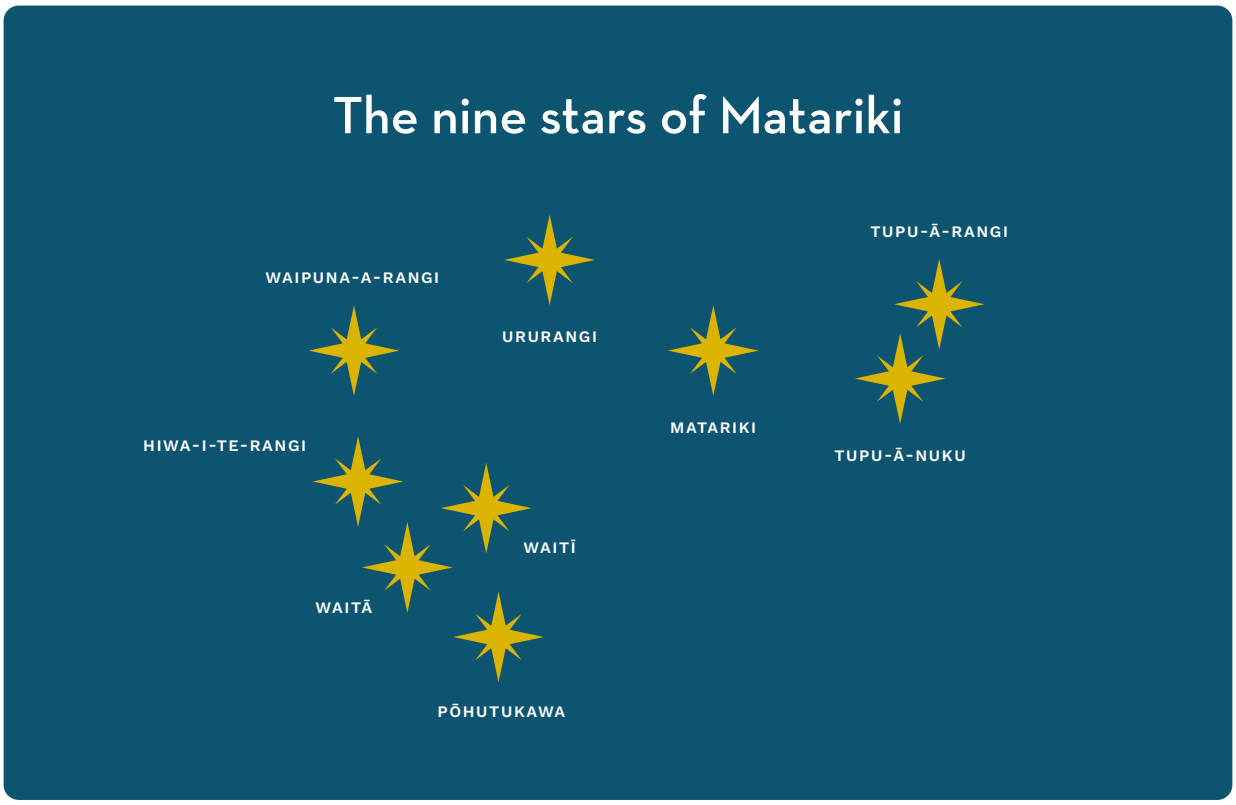
During the year OCANZ continued to invest in the development of new Multiple Choice and Short Answer Questions for the written examination, and the updating of Short Answer Question marking guides. The OCANZ Examination Manager regularly meets with Examination Managers from other accreditation authorities to discuss issues of common interest in the examination space.

6.0

Indigenous Strategy Taskforce Report

PURPOSE

The IST was established in 2018 to make recommendations to the OCANZ Board on how to improve the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and New Zealand and to help implement Board approved initiatives in this area.



Mānawatia a Matariki ma Puanga! Celebrating the Māori New Year

The 2024-2025 OCANZ annual report aligns with the Matariki period, a time for reflection, renewal and planning. In recognition of this aliment, this years' Indigenous Strategy Taskforce (IST) report will reflect on the past year through the lens of Matariki and embrace the spirit of renewal it represents. As we look back on the year's work, we draw connections between our efforts and the values embodied by the Matariki stars.

Matariki, also known as the Pleiades star cluster, marks the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview).[1] It signifies the annual celestial changes that occur in winter in Aotearoa. Various iwi (subtribes) note the appearance of star clusters and use this to forecast the year ahead. Appearing in June, Matariki signals the end of one year and the beginning of another. While many iwi observe Matariki to mark the new year, some iwi use **Puanga**, due to visibility differences across regions.[2]

Deeply rooted in Mātauranga Māori (ancestral knowledge), Matariki is a time for:

REMEMBRANCE
Honouring those lost since the last Matariki

CELEBRATION
Coming together in gratitude

HOPE
Looking ahead to the new year

The Matariki cluster contains hundreds of stars, though only nine are visible to the naked eye—each with its own cultural significance.

Taskforce Membership and Meetings

The IST's role includes advising the OCANZ Board on:

- how best to support the implementation of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework and Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework across optometry education providers.
- how best to work with relevant partners to encourage an increase in the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori optometry workforce; and
- other actions appropriate to the role of an Australian and New Zealand accreditation body to achieve a culturally safe health workforce.

Matariki

The name Matariki refers to both the star cluster as a whole and a specific star, which signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment and the health and wellbeing of people.[3] This star relates to OCANZs' purpose and role in committing to a health system free of racism and discrimination by contributing to the development of a culturally safe optometry workforce.

MEMBER	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mrs Renata Watene *(Chair)*	19/10/2018	4	4
Ms Shannon Peckham *(Deputy Chair)*	22/02/2019	4	3
Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou	10/08/2018	4	4
Professor Nicola Anstice	20/08/2021	4	4
Associate Professor Lilon Bandler	01/05/2020	4	3
Ms Sara Carrison	18/10/2024	3	2
Dr Andrew Collins	19/10/2018	4	4
Dr Shelley Hopkins	19/10/2018	1	1
Ms Lauren Carr	14/10/2022	4	1
Ms Donna Murray	20/08/2021	4	3

The IST comprises nine members, with the term of appointment for each member being three years. OCANZ is proud to have over 50% First Nations representation on the IST and will continue to work to strengthen Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and Māori Peoples leadership through our governance. In 2024-2025, there were four meetings of the IST.

Pōhutukawa

Pōhutukawa is the star of remembrance and encourages us to be thankful for those who have contributed to our lives.

At the 11 July 2024 Shelley Hopkins completed her second term on the IST and stepped down. OCANZ would like to sincerely thank Shelley for her commitment, expertise and guidance during her time as a member of the IST and look forward to continuing to work with Shelley as an ally of the IST in her role as educator at the Queensland University of Technology.

Ururangi

Ururangi is the star of the winds and is associated with the four winds that bring change and new beginnings.[3] In November 2024, OCANZ were privileged to welcome Ngarrindjeri woman Sara Carrison to the IST. Sara, an optometrist and Associate Lecturer at Flinders University is passionate about optometry and supporting mob in studying optometry. OCANZ looks forward to listening and learning from Sara's lived experience and guidance as a member of the IST.

OCANZ guiding principles for working with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Peoples

In December 2024, the OCANZ Board approved Guiding Principles for working with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori Peoples. Developed with the IST, the document embeds Indigenous values and worldviews into OCANZ's core business and strategic plan (2023–2028). It honours centuries-old ways of knowing, being, and doing, and outlines six interconnected, strengths-based principles for staff, Board, and Committee members.

THEY INCLUDE:

- Manaakitanga | Respect for the centrality of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander and Māori cultures.
- Respect for the diversity of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander and Māori Nations.
- Rangatiratanga | Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander and Māori leadership / self-determination.
- Whanaungatanga | Relationships.
- Kotahitanga | Culturally responsive practice.
- Kaitiakitanga which refers to the practice and embodiment of responsibilities and obligations as guardians on this earth.

Waitī

Waitī is the star of freshwater and is associated with the lakes, rivers, and streams of the earth. Waitī is also associated with the traditional Māori practice of kaitiakitanga, or guardianship.[3] We reflect on this star in developing our guiding principles for working with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori Peoples.

Waitā

Waitā is the star of the ocean and is associated with the vast bodies of water that surround Aotearoa.[3] This star is reflective of the trans-Tasman function of OCANZ; the ocean that flows between Australia and Aotearoa, where the three cultures (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori) meet. This star reflects the work OCANZ does to support trans-Tasman implementation of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework and the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework.

Optometry Health Curriculum Frameworks: Implementation Guides

The Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework: Implementation Guide and Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework: Implementation Guide were launched in 2024 and are new documents written with the completion of the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework and the update of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework. The Implementation Guides support trans-Tasman implementation of both Frameworks and highlight eight areas of focus to ensure their successful implementation across the Novice, Intermediate and Entry to Practice skill development levels.

Evaluation of the implementation and uptake of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework

In 2024, OCANZ received external funding to evaluate the implementation and impact of the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework. The project aims to assess how well cultural safety education is being integrated into optometry programs and identify successes and challenges faced by educators. Insights will help OCANZ determine future support for meeting the Cultural Safety Accreditation Standard.

Between September and November 2024, data was collected from optometry schools via an electronic mapping template. A follow-up evaluation of the Framework's impact will occur in the second half of 2025. OCANZ sincerely thanks the participating schools for their time and knowledge sharing.

Waipuna-a-Rangi

Waipunarangi is associated with rain that falls from the sky and washes over the earth, nourishing all living things.[3] This star corresponds with education which also acts as a catalyst for nourishing and growing minds and enables a mindset of continuous learning.[4] OCANZ supports ongoing education for academics to embed cultural safety into optometry curriculum. Educational workshops provide a safe space for educators to explore relevant topics and challenges in implementing the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health Curriculum Frameworks. In 2024-2025, OCANZ held two such workshops.

Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework Implementation Workshop

In August 2024, OCANZ held its first Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework Implementation Workshop. This interactive workshop brought together representatives from optometry schools in Australia and Aotearoa, who engaged in whakawhanaungatanga through an adapted pepeha.

> *Preparing for and listening to everyone's pepeha was a fantastic experience. There was also good sharing of ideas and current practice which was helpful*
>
> — WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

The workshop covered the Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework's history, development, links to the Optometry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework, and OCANZ's implementation timelines.

> *Nga mihi nui for this fantastic workshop. I really enjoyed learning more about Māori Culture and sharing ideas with colleagues and am looking forward to more collaboration*
>
> — WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Train the trainer workshop - teaching and assessing culturally safe content

In recognition of their contribution to the evaluation project (see above), participating optometry schools were invited to attend an OCANZ Train the Trainer workshop on teaching and assessing culturally safe content. Held in June 2025 and facilitated by Dr. Peter Malouf, the workshop equipped educators with practical strategies for embedding cultural safety in optometry education using a strengths-based approach.

> *It was a privilege to attend, many thanks to Peter Malouf for his refreshing and helpful presentation*
>
> — WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Peter's presentation drew from his lived experience as a Wakka Wakka and Wuli Wuli man and academic to explore practical strategies to implement Indigenous Pedagogical approaches to optometry teaching, assessment types for culturally safe practices and writing strength-based curriculum and assessment questions.

> *Peter was a fabulous presenter, very generous and knowledgeable. I liked the discussion with peers as well*
>
> — WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

OCANZ sincerely thanks Dr. Malouf for sharing his lived experience and expertise as an Aboriginal academic.

Partnerships to support an increase in the recruitment, retention and graduation of First Nations Optometry Students

OCANZ recognises the importance of a diverse and representative optometry workforce and is committed to supporting First Nations-led efforts in Australia and Aotearoa to increase Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori participation in optometry and education. In 2024, OCANZ began a project to better understand how to support the recruitment, retention, and graduation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in optometry. The initial scoping phase included a desktop review of relevant literature and frameworks, and consultations with First Nations organisations, leaders, and stakeholders.

A key highlight of this work was the Optometry Mob Workshop held on Larrakia Country (13 December 2024), led by the A Place for Mob, A Place for Me in Optometry project team. The workshop brought together students, the First Nations Optometry Network, Optometry Australia, and OCANZ to reflect, reconnect, and discuss key factors to support culturally safe and responsive optometry education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. These discussions highlighted critical factors along the student pathway and will be used to inform the next phase of this project to be undertaken in 2026.

Tupuārangi

Tupuārangi is Tupuānuku's twin and is associated with food and growth above the ground.[3] This reflects the work OCANZ does to support and connect First Nations optometrists and the First Nations eye health community.

Tupuānuku

Tupuānuku is the star of food that grows in the ground.[3] This star is reflective of the First Nations optometry students who require support and nurturing to grow strong and contribute to a diverse and representative optometry workforce.

In early 2025 OCANZ were pleased to award four OCANZ Bursaries for the 2025 calendar year.

Recipients include:

Ngarrindjeri woman **Sara Carrison**, Associate Lecturer at Flinders University who attended the Lowitja conference 2025.

Yuin, Gumbaynggirr, and Gomeori man **Jesse Aldridge**, Optometry Student at Flinders University who will attend the Indigenous Allied Health Australia Conference 2025.

Kenisha Keung, Ngāti Maniapoto, Optometry Student at the University of Auckland who is will attend the New Zealand Association of Optometrists Conference 2025.

Renata Watene Ngā Puhi, Tainui, PhD Student University of Auckland who presented at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference 2025.

Representation at First Nations led conferences

In December 2024, members of the IST and OCANZ Policy and Project Officer Kelley Baldwin attended and presented at the National Indigenous Allied Health Australia Conference 2025 on Kaurna Country.

PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED:

- Bringing an Indigenous perspective to the optometry workforce – Shannon Peckham
- Mātauranga Māori: Developing an Optometry Māori Health Curriculum Framework to support trans-Tasman cultural responsiveness – Renata Watene & Nicola Anstice
- Knowledge sharing and storytelling in evaluating OCANZ's impact – Nicola Anstice & Kelley Baldwin

Shannon Peckham
IAHA 2024

Renata Watene &
Nicola Anstice
IAHA 2024

Kelley Baldwin &
Nicola Anstice
IAHA 2024

Renata Watene &
Kelley Baldwin
NATSIEHC25

Hiwa-i-te-rangi

Hiwa-i-te-rangi – is the final star in this cluster and its name is connected to the promise of a prosperous season.[3] OCANZ extends its sincere thanks to the IST for their guidance over the past year and their continued contributions. We also acknowledge the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Māori eye health communities, whose culture, strength, and knowledge continue to enrich and strengthen the eye health sector. OCANZ looks forward to walking alongside these communities in our commitment to contributing to a health system free of racism and discrimination by contributing to the development of a culturally safe optometry workforce.[5]

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference

In May 2025, two OCANZ staff and six Taskforce members attended the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference in Boorloo (Perth), on Whadjuk Noongar Country. With the theme "Seeing Our Way", the event centred on self-determination and Indigenous leadership in eye health. IST Chair, Renata Watene and Kelley Baldwin presented on OCANZ's collaborative efforts to support a diverse and representative optometry workforce.

References

[1] Pure New Zealand, Matariki: Māori New Year. https://www.newzealand.com/au/matariki/ Accessed 30 June 2025

[2] Te papa Tongarewa | Museum of New Zealand, The difference between Puanga and Matariki Ko Puanaga, ko matariki me ō rāua hononga, https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year/matariki-regional-variations/difference Accessed 1 July 2025

[3] Te papa Tongarewa | Museum of New Zealand, Ngā whetū o Matariki / The stars of Matariki, https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year/what-and-who-matariki/stars-matariki accessed 30 Jun 2024

[4] Staneiu, Roxana-Maria. (2023). Nurturing Neuroplasticity as an Enabler for Growth Mindset through Lifelong Learning and Knowledge Dynamics. Proceedings of the International Conference on Business Excellence. 17. 1264-1274. 10.2478/picbe-2023-0113.

[5] Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand, 2023, OCANZ Strategic Plan, 2023-2028, https://ocanz.org/about/strategic-plan/

6.0

Finance and Risk Report

Finance and Risk Committee

The Committee oversees OCANZ internal financial systems and accountabilities, monitors the accuracy and timeliness of the financial and non-financial reporting to the Board, reviews annual audit findings and the annual financial statements before presentation to the Board for adoption, and monitors corporate risk, including financial risk, and the internal controls instituted in response to such risks.

The committee comprises up to four members appointed by the Board, including a Chair who must be a Board Director. The term of appointment for each committee member is three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment on two occasions only (maximum of nine years in total), unless otherwise determined by the OCANZ Board. The committee met four times during the financial year.

MEMBER	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	ELIGIBLE MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr Tony Lund *(Chair until 16 December 2024)*	04/12/2015	4	3
Dr Linda Turner *(Chair from 16 December 2024)*	09/12/2016	4	4
Mr Jason Chong	18/01/2024	4	4
Mr Damian Koppens	21/02/2020	4	4

Financial Report Analysis 2024-2025

The subsequent Special Purpose Financial Report presents the finances of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand for the financial year ended 30 June 2025. The following discussion and analysis are provided to assist readers to understand the financial performance and position of OCANZ in this period.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

The reported surplus from ordinary activities in 2025 was $128,582. This compares to a 2024 surplus of $124,361.

Total revenue increased by $254,690 (24%), from $1,056,804 in 2024 to $1,311,494 in 2025. This was mostly due to an increase in examination revenue and funding from the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Revenue from examination fees increased by $123,383 from $420,446 in 2024 to $543,829 in 2025, due to examination candidate numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Total expenditure increased by 26% from $932,443 in 2024 to $1,182,912 in 2025.

There were increased costs related to examination due to an increase in activity. There was also an increase in employee benefit expense due to the increase in workdays of the Project and Policy Officer. In 2025, OCANZ spent $190,972 on projects including the review of the Competency in Optometry Examination and the funding of a range of projects undertaken by the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce. The details of all projects which were funded are described in full in earlier sections of this report.

Statement of Financial Position and Change in Equity

Total equity increased by $128,585 from $802,402 in 2024 to $930,987 in 2025. The total retained earnings is mainly comprised cash at bank and held to maturity term deposits.

Statement of Cash Flows

There was a net decrease in cash flow from activities for 2025 of $92,509 resulting in a cash and cash equivalent balance of $173,136 at the end of the financial year.

Other work - Finance and Risk Committee

In 2024-2025 the OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee, in addition to its regular oversight of the OCANZ budget and financial reporting, continued to monitor OCANZ risks using the OCANZ Board's management framework for the management of the organisation's financial and operational risks.

The Committee oversaw the annual cases for funding of OCANZ activities to the Optometry Board of Australia and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and oversaw the setting of accreditation and examination fees considering national requirements and cost comparisons.

7.0

Special Purpose Financial Report 2024–2025

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Directors' Report

Directors

The following persons were Directors of the Company during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report, unless otherwise stated:

Mr Jason Chong *(from 15 November 2024)*

Dr Andrew Collins

Professor Jennifer Craig

Professor Alex Gentle

Mr Tony Lund *(to 15 November 2024)*

Professor Lisa Nissen

Ms Shannon Peckham

Dr Linda Turner

Associate Professor Ann Webber

Mrs Katrina Yap

In compliance with Section 25 of the OCANZ Constitution, Rotation of Directors, Tony Lund, Alex Gentle, Shannon Peckham and Katrina Yap all retired. Mr Tony Lund had served three consecutive terms as Director, the maximum number of terms permitted under the Company Constitution, Rule 25.5, and was ineligible for re-appointment. Professor Alex Gentle and Ms Katrina Yap have served two consecutive terms as Director and were eligible for re-appointment for a third and final term. Ms Shannon Peckham has served one term and was eligible for re-appointment for a second term.

At the Annual General meeting, Alex Gentle, Shannon Peckham and Katrina Yap were re-appointed. Mr Jason Chong was appointed to the Board to replace Mr Tony Lund, under Rule 23.2.3, as an eligible Director nominated by the Board who has a high level of knowledge, skill and experience appropriate to the skills required by the Board of Directors, such as education, finance or governance.

Pictured top row left to right: Professor Lisa Nissen, Professor Jennifer Craig, Mr Jason Chong, Dr Linda Turner, Dr Andrew Collins. Pictured bottom row left to right: Ms Susan Kelly (OCANZ CEO), Dr Katrina Yap, Professor Alex Gentle, Ms Shannon Peckham, Associate Professor Ann Webber.

Objectives

The objects of OCANZ, as set out in its Constitution, are all the following:

a) To grant accreditation to Australian and New Zealand optometry schools, departments and academic units and the courses/programs conducted by them leading to eligibility for registration as an optometrist in Australia and New Zealand.

b) At the OCANZ's discretion, to vary, withdraw or suspend any accreditation previously granted by the OCANZ in the event that OCANZ resolves that such accreditation should be varied, withdrawn or suspended.

c) To assess for admission to practice in Australia and New Zealand overseas trained optometrists.

d) To advise and make recommendations to the Optometry Board of Australia (OptomBA) and Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (ODOB) and to assist on matters concerning the registration of optometrists.

e) To provide information to any Governmental Agency relating to law and policy concerning the registration of optometrists in Australia and New Zealand.

f) To provide information and advice to any Governmental Agency relating to law and policy concerning the adequacy or otherwise of a person's skills in the field of optometry for the purposes of migration to Australia or New Zealand.

g) To assess Australian and New Zealand postgraduate courses of study in the field of optometry (including but not limited to ocular therapeutic drugs) for the purpose of granting, varying, withdrawing or suspending accreditation.

h) To assess the therapeutic competence of optometrists registered in Australia or New Zealand who have completed a non-accredited course of study in ocular therapeutic drugs.

i) To perform activities ancillary to the education and registration of optometrists and accreditation of optometry courses or any other incidental activity related to the objects described above.

OCANZ is continuing to meet its short-term objectives to:

- Safeguard organisational governance through use of efficient and effective business processes.
- Ensure the standards for the accreditation of optometry programs and the standards for the examination of overseas trained optometrists remain best practice.
- Continue to deliver the accreditation function as defined under agreements with the Registration Boards of Australia and New Zealand

OCANZ long-term objectives remain to:

- Consolidate OCANZ's position as a leader in accreditation and assessment standards.
- Advocate for standards and safety in optometry education.
- Support and encourage the exchange of expertise and information relating to accreditation and assessment nationally and internationally.

Strategy to Achieving the Objectives

Directors have agreed a strategic plan to 30 June 2028 which is published on the OCANZ website here.

OCANZ has four standing subcommittees that help Directors to oversee the activities of OCANZ:

- An Accreditation Committee that oversees the accreditation of programs of study.
- An Examination Eligibility Committee that determines candidate eligibility to sit the OCANZ examinations.
- An Examination Committee that oversees the examination of overseas qualified optometrists.
- A Finance and Risk Committee that supports OCANZ Directors in ensuring sound financial control and risk management.

OCANZ established an Indigenous Strategy Taskforce late in 2018. Its role is to make recommendations to Directors on how to improve the contribution of optometry accreditation functions to better health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples in Australia and New Zealand and to help implement Board approved initiatives in this area.

OCANZ engages with over fifty academics, clinicians, educationalists and experts in accreditation and assessment to support its activities.

OCANZ currently has a dedicated team of five staff to provide management and administrative oversight of OCANZ operational activities and to support the OCANZ committees and the Indigenous Strategy Taskforce. The staff are in regular communication with the OptomBA and ODOB with respect to registration matters and the Australian Government with respect to migration and workforce matters.

OCANZ has developed links with relevant accreditation and assessment bodies nationally and internationally and participates in the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum and the World Council of Optometry.

OCANZ collaborates with the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand and the Optometry Board of Australia to support the achievement of OCANZ objectives.

Performance Measures

OCANZ has adopted several mechanisms to measure performance:

- OCANZ enacts annual business activity plans which outline a range of ways in which the OCANZ Board monitors and measures its performance.
- OCANZ has published timelines for the processing of candidate application materials and the provision of results to candidates. In 2024/2025, these application times have been reduced to assist with workforce issues. Examination results are scrutinised externally to ensure transparency and accuracy.
- OCANZ currently provides accreditation functions for the Optometry Board of Australia and the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand as per service agreements. The agreements contain regular and defined performance reporting requirements.
- The Finance and Risk Committee support the Directors in their oversight of the financial performance of OCANZ.

Information on Directors

Mr Jason Chong

QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Business Administration, Australian Graduate School of Management, University of New South Wales; Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), University of Adelaide

EXPERIENCE

Managing Director, Imperial Capital; Director, One Credit Commercial; Industry Panel Member, Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA); Industry Partner, The University of Sydney Business School; Career Mentor, University of New South Wales; Career Mentor, University of Adelaide

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee member

Professor Jennifer Craig

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD, MSc (Cataract & Refractive Surgery), BSc (Hons), FCOptom, FAAO, FBCLA, FCLS

EXPERIENCE

Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland; Chair, School of Medicine Board of Research, The University of Auckland; Registered optometrist; Past Chair, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board of New Zealand; Life Fellow, College of Optometrists, UK; Member, New Zealand Association of Optometrists (NZAO), NZ; Adjunct Professor, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Visiting Research Associate, Aston University, Birmingham, UK; Director, Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), USA; Councillor, International Society of Contact Lens Researchers (ISCLR), USA; Fellow, British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), UK; Fellow (Dry Eye), British Contact Lens Association (BCLA), UK; Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society (CCLS), NZ; Member of the Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia (CCLSA), Australia; Member, American Academy of Optometry (AAO), USA; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), USA; Member, International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), Canada; Associate Editor, Ocular Surface Journal, USA; Editorial Board Member, Optometry and Vision Science; Director, Craig Dean Ltd, NZ; Member of Steering Committee, TFOS DEWS III; IUE Kairangahau Wānanga Steering Group, NZ; BCLA CLEAR Presbyopia Steering Group and Section Chair.

Dr Andrew Collins

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Optometry, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Certificate in Ocular Pharmacology Auckland

EXPERIENCE

Employed as Head of School in the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Auckland; Director, Aotearoa New Zealand National Eye Centre, University of Auckland; Registered optometrist; Member, New Zealand Association of Optometrists; Member, The Cornea and Contact Lens Society (NZ); Member, International Advisory Board of Clinical and Experimental Optometry.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Board of Directors Deputy Chair; OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce member

Professor Alex Gentle

QUALIFICATIONS

BSc, GCertUniTeach, PGCertOcTher, PhD, FACO, FCOptom, FAAO

EXPERIENCE

Chair in Vision Science and Deputy Dean, Deakin University School of Medicine; Registered Optometrist; Member of the Optometry Board of Australia Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee; Fellow, College of Optometrists; Fellow, Australian College of Optometry; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; Member Optometry Australia (Vic/SA).

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Board Chair

Information on Directors (continued)

Mr Tony Lund

QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Arts Cambridge; Fellow Chartered Management Accountant, CIMAG

EXPERIENCE

Director MHM Limited, Japan; Member, China Book International Advisory Board; Consultant with Beijing Joint Education Technology Company, China; Director and Treasurer, May Gibbs' Nutcote. Formerly: Managing Director Asia and Global Board Director, Cambridge University Press; Regional Finance Director, Asia Pacific, Cambridge University Press; Director or Committee member of several NFP's in Singapore and Australia.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee Chair until 16 December 2024

Ms Shannon Peckham

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Optometry Melb, PGCertOcTher

EXPERIENCE

Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Member, Optometry Australia; Member, Indigenous Allied Health Australia; Associate Member, Eyecare Plus; Optometrist, private practice.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Indigenous Strategy Taskforce Deputy Chair

Professor Lisa Nissen

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Pharmacy, PhD

EXPERIENCE

Program Director, University of Queensland; Member, AHPRA Scheduled Medicines Expert Group; Clinical expert advisor for the development of the initial NPS Prescribing Competency Framework, led 2020 review of the revised NPS Prescribing Competency Framework; Registered pharmacist.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Accreditation Committee Chair

Dr Linda Turner

QUALIFICATIONS

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Southern Cross University; BA, BCom, MCom University of Auckland; DipTchg, North Shore Teachers College, Auckland; Fellow, Chartered Accountant (FCA); Graduate, The Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

EXPERIENCE

Governance roles - Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria, Surveying Taskforce, Southern Metropolitan Regional Council of Adult, Further and Community Education (ACFE), Victoria; Dove Hawkes Bay, NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants Board and National Council, President of NZICA 2009; Academic roles - Melbourne University Accounting Department tutor and mentor; Head of the Business Schools, UNITEC Institute of Technology and Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland; and Eastern Institute of Technology, Hawkes Bay; Business roles – New Zealand Victoria Business Group (NZVBG) Director, Co-Founder WOMANZ network, KPMG Senior Consultant.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Finance and Risk Committee Chair from 16 December 2024; OCANZ Accreditation Committee member

Information on Directors (continued)

Associate Professor Ann Webber

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD MS BAppSc (Optom)(Hons), Grad Cert (Oc Therapeutics), FAAO Dipl (BVPPO).

EXPERIENCE

Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Adjunct Associate Professor and Sessional Academic (casual employee), Queensland University of Technology, Faculty of Health, School of Clinical Sciences; Adjunct Associate Professor and Employee (casual), University of New South Wales, School of Optometry and Vision Science; Employee, Queensland Health, Queensland Children's Hospital, Dept of Ophthalmology; Member, Professional Services Review Panel; Member, Optometry Queensland/NT; Fellow, American Academy of Optometry (FAAO); Diplomate, Binocular Vision Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section of AAO; Member, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO); Member, World Society of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSPOS); Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society of Australia; Associate Editor, Clinical and Experimental Optometry; Committee Member, Advanced Practice Oversight Committee (Optometry Australia); Former Board Member, Optometry Board of Australia; Graduate and Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OCANZ Examination Committee member

Mrs Katrina Yap

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Optometry Melb

EXPERIENCE

Registered optometrist, Optometry Board of Australia; Member, Optometry
Australia; Director, Vision North Eyecare; Clinical Teaching Instructor, Melbourne Eyecare Clinic; Visiting lecturer University of Melbourne; Member, Cornea and Contact Lens Society Australia; Member, Provision; Committee Member, Advanced Practice Oversight Committee
(Optometry Australia).

Meetings of Directors

The number of meetings of the company's Board of Directors ('the Board') and each Board committee held during the year ended 30 June 2025, and the number of meetings attended by each Director were:

	Directors' Meetings		Committee/Taskforce Meetings	
	ATTENDED	HELD	ATTENDED	HELD
Mr Jason Chong	2	3	2	2
Dr Andrew Collins	5	5	4	4
Professor Jennifer Craig	4	5	-	-
Professor Alex Gentle	5	5	-	-
Mr Tony Lund	1	2	1	2
Professor Lisa Nissen	5	5	3	3
Ms Shannon Peckham	4	5	3	4
Dr Linda Turner	5	5	7	7
Associate Professor Ann Webber	5	5	4	4
Mrs Katrina Yap	4	5	-	-

'Held' represents the number of meetings held during the time the Director was in office or was a member of the relevant committee.

Contributions on Winding Up

In the event of the company being wound up, ordinary members are required to contribute a maximum of $10 each towards any outstanding obligations of the company.

At 30 June 2025 the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute to outstanding obligations were the company to be wound up is $50, based on five current ordinary members.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 is set out immediately after this Directors' report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of Directors, pursuant to section 298(2)(a) of the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed on behalf of the Directors

Alex Gentle, Director
Dated 17 October 2025

7.2 Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	$ 2025	$ 2024	*NOTE
Revenue	1,311,494	1,056,804	4
	1,311,494	1,056,804	
Assessment panels	(27,167)	(25,758)	
Office expenses	(53,201)	(50,757)	
Employee benefit expense	(521,087)	(450,033)	
Examination costs	(192,974)	(169,686)	
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(4,217)	(14,721)	
Major projects	(190,972)	(41,457)	
Meeting costs	(114,526)	(85,714)	
Rent and occupancy expense	(36,000)	(54,702)	
Professional fees	(20,891)	(24,062)	
Miscellaneous	(15,409)	(8,567)	
Finance expense	(6,648)	(6,986)	
	(1,182,912)	(932,443)	
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense	**128,582**	**124,361**	
Income tax expense	-	-	
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand	**128,582**	**124,361**	
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand	**128,582**	**124,361**	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

7.3 Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

ASSETS	$ 2025	$ 2024	*NOTE
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	173,136	265,645	
Trade and other receivables	21,325	22,692	5
Term deposits	990,000	790,000	
Total Current Assets	**1,184,461**	**1,078,337**	
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5,451	9,667	6
Total Non-Current Assets	**5,451**	**9,667**	
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,189,912**	**1,088,004**	
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	170,533	201,419	7
Employee benefits	88,392	84,180	
Total Current Liabilities	**258,925**	**285,599**	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**258,925**	**285,599**	
NET ASSETS	**930,987**	**802,405**	
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	930,987	802,405	
TOTAL EQUITY	**930,987**	**802,405**	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

7.4 Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	$ RETAINED EARNINGS	$ TOTAL
2025		
Balance at 1 July 2024	802,405	802,405
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	128,582	128,582
Balance at 30 June 2025	**930,987**	**930,987**
2024		
Balance at 1 July 2023	678,044	678,044
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	124,361	124,361
Balance at 30 June 2024	**802,405**	**802,405**

**The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

7.5 Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	$ 2025	$ 2024	*NOTE
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from AHPRA	419,967	399,969	
Receipts from New Zealand Board	42,270	41,039	
Receipts from Examination Candidates	529,676	448,383	
Interest received	40,541	35,570	
Receipts from Accreditations	151,012	147,857	
Other income	165,781	60,603	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,235,288)	(878,314)	
Finance expense	(6,468)	(6,986)	
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**107,491**	**248,121**	*10*
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment	-	(10,876)	
Proceeds from / (payments for) investments	(200,000)	22,825	*11*
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	**(200,000)**	**11,949**	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	**-**	**-**	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(92,509)	260,070	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	265,645	5,575	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**173,136**	**265,645**	

**The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

7.6 Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The financial report covers Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand as an individual entity. Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The functional and presentation currency of Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance the company is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*. To the extent required by the ACNC, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures.

Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

These financial statements do not comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in the Australian Accounting Standards. The material accounting policies adopted in the special purpose financial statements are set out in Note 2.

The entity has not assessed how its material accounting policies differ from the recognition and measurement requirements contained in Australian Accounting Standards that do not apply to it.

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

INTEREST REVENUE

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

RENDERING OF SERVICES

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

OTHER INCOME

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the company is entitled to it.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

DEPRECIATION

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The estimated useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

FIXED ASSET CLASS	USEFUL LIFE
Office Equipment	5–10 years
Computer Equipment	2–3 years

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

(e) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements.

3. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

KEY ESTIMATES - PROVISIONS

As discussed in note 2, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

KEY ESTIMATES - RECEIVABLES

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

KEY ESTIMATES - USEFUL LIVES OF ASSETS

The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

4. Revenue and Other Income

REVENUE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	$ 2025	$ 2024
Interest income	40,541	38,475
Examination fees	543,829	420,446
AHPRA contribution	381,788	363,608
Accreditation income	137,285	132,633
New Zealand Optometry Board	42,270	41,039
Other Revenue	165,781	60,603
Total Revenue	**1,311,494**	**1,056,804**

5. Trade and Other Receivables

	$ 2025	$ 2024
Other receivables	21,325	22,692
	21,325	**22,692**

6. Property, plant and equipment

OFFICE FURNITURE	$ 2025	$ 2024
At cost	4,518	4,518
Accumulated depreciation	(4,518)	(4,518)
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
At cost	17,637	16,745
Accumulated depreciation	(16,249)	(15,203)
Total office equipment	1,388	1,542
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		
At cost	59,715	59,715
Accumulated depreciation	(55,652)	(51,590)
Total computer equipment	4,063	8,125
Total property, plant and equipment	**5,451**	**9,667**

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7. Trade and Other Payables

	$ 2025	$ 2024
Creditors and accruals	6,788	49,528
Exam fees in advance	84,612	67,027
GST payable	542	14,158
Credit card	8,603	3,409
Accreditation fees	69,988	67,297
	170,533	**201,419**

8. Auditors' Remuneration

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by RDL Accountants, the auditors of the company:

	$ 2025	$ 2024
auditing or reviewing the financial statements	6,552	6,300
accounting fees	8,300	7,170
Total	**14,852**	**13,470**

9. Related Parties

(a) The company's main related parties are as follows:

Responsible persons and members of key management personnel.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

(b) Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

10. Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	$ 2025	$ 2024
Profit for the year	128,582	124,361
NON-CASH FLOWS IN PROFIT:		
depreciation	4,217	14,721
CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES:		
(increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	1,367	26,330
increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(30,887)	84,512
increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	4,212	20,707
Cashflows from operations	**107,491**	**270,631**

11. Proceeds from/(payments for) investments

(a) Movement in Financial Assets

	$ 2025	$ 2024
Increase/(decrease) in term deposits	200,000	-
Increase/(decrease) in guarantee lease	-	(22,825)
	200,000	**(22,825)**

12. Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

13. Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business is:

Optometry Council of Australia & New Zealand
Level 17
31 Queen Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Directors' Declaration

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 of the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 9 to 17, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:
   (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and
   (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of is in accordance with the accounting policy described in Note 2 of the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Alex Gentle, Director

Dated 17 October 2025

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER DIVISION 60 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025 there have been:

i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and

ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Matthew Hung, CA
rdl.accountants

22 August 2025
Blackburn, Victoria

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

a. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in the notes and complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act Regulation 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the directors, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to notes to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the accounting policies described in notes to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of

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accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Matthew Hung, CA
rdl.accountants

17 October 2025
Blackburn, Victoria

Optometry Council of
Australia and New Zealand